GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5428
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
OVERSEAS OFFICES OF AIR INDIA
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of overseas offices of Air India where it is not operating any flight or operating just a single flight;

(b) the details of Air India`s earnings and expenditures on its overseas offices during the last three years, office and year-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down these offices of Air India and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) : Details of overseas offices, w here Air India does not operate a single flight or operates only a single flight are given at Annexure-I.

(b) Details of earnings and expenditure incurred on overseas offices by Air India during the last three years are given at Annexure-II, III and IV.

(c) : In order to cut down costs and maximize revenue Air India has closed / decided to close / downsized some of its overseas booking offices. The status of the overseas offices where AI is not operating any flight or is operating only a single flight is as follows:

(I) Zurich, Chittagong and Vienna: The booking offices at offline station at Zurich, Chittagong and Vienna have been shut down in FY 2013-14 with a view to cut down cost.

So as to maximize revenue and promote code share flights, there is now only asmall sales representative set up at the airport at Zurich and the sales representative at Vienna is operating from a small office space in a business centre.

(II) Cairo and Tehran: A decision has been taken to close offices at thes stations.

(III) Toronto: Toronto has become offline effective May 2012. Downsizing has not been done.

(IV) Washington, Los Angles and Amsterdam: Air India is maintaining booking office at offline stations at Washington, Los Angles and Amsterdam where AI has no operation in view of the following:

(i) To tap and cater to the Indian ethnic population, business travelers, tourists and also other segments having affinity between India and the respective countries/stations.

(ii) Revenues being generated by these stations.

(iii) Code Share agreement and tie ups with various airlines.